

Confederate States of America
REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
November 1, 1864

AND
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC PRINTING
October 26, 1864

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, }
Richmond, 1st November, 1864. }

TO THE PRESIDENT:

SIR: Since my report of 25th April last, there has been nothing in the affairs of this department calling for special comment.

I beg leave to renew the recommendation, then made, that Congress should provide for a more general distribution of the laws. The act of 5th of August, 1861, directs that three thousand pamphlet copies of the laws shall be printed at the close of each session of Congress; and after providing for the distribution of a certain number, enacts, that "the remaining copies shall be preserved in the Department of Justice, subject to the further order of Congress." The number thus ordered to be distributed, is about eleven hundred, and the number remaining to be preserved in this department is about nine hundred, exclusive of one thousand copies directed to be bound in calf.

Since the passage of that act, the military courts have been established with a jurisdiction extending to all offences defined as crimes by the laws of the Confederate States. The judges and judge advocates of these courts are not provided with copies of the laws, and frequent complaints are made of the impossibility of procuring them. At the last session, the House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing, and requesting the Attorney General to furnish each member of these courts with a copy of the acts, and, in some urgent cases, I have not scrupled to act in compliance with the resolution. But it is needless to remark that a resolution of one House cannot change the provisions of a law, nor authorize the Attorney General to make any other distribution than that which the aforesaid act prescribes.

The judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of the States are also often compelled to pass upon questions arising out of the legis-

lation of Congress ; and they, too, are unprovided with copies of the laws, as are also the Commissioners of the District Courts of the Confederate States.

It is desirable that all of these officers should be provided by law with copies of all the acts, as they can now be had in no other way.

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the report of the Superintendent of Public Printing, showing the condition of that branch of the public business.

GEORGE DAVIS,
Attorney General.

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REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC PRINTING.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC PRINTING, }
Richmond, Oct. 26, 1864. }

Hon. GEORGE DAVIS,
Attorney General:

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the embarrassments noticed in my report of April 26th, have, in a great measure, been removed by the passage of the act approved June 3d, 1864. The third section of that act provides for contracts by the heads of the Executive Departments, and also for the apportionment of the work, in the absence of such contracts, among "any number of contractors and printing establishments," as suggested in my annual report of November, 1863. With the exception of the Postoffice, Treasury, and War Departments, contracts were made. The Postoffice Department had made a contract for four years with Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnavant, and it was deemed best not to annul it. The Treasury Department assumed the responsibility of doing their own work, without the superintendence of this office. The War Department was left entirely to the management of this bureau; and, accordingly, after inviting proposals from the several printing offices in this city, I made the following schedule of prices, which was accepted unanimously:

"BUREAU OF PUBLIC PRINTING, }
Richmond, Aug. 12, 1864. }

"GENTLEMEN: I am now prepared to offer you, upon the following terms, a portion of the printing of the Government. The right to modify these rates is reserved, should the cost of labor or material at any time decline; and I would feel bound to pursue a corresponding course with reference to any increased expenditures you might incur, the object being a fair and liberal compensation for labor actually performed, and the other expenses incident thereto:

"For composition, (plain,) per 1,000 ems,	\$2 50
"For composition, (rule or figure,) per 1,000 ems,	3 75
"For composition, (rule and figure,) per 1,000 ems,	5 00
"Presswork, per token, of 250 impressions, or fraction of such token,	8 00

"For ruling blanks—

"Letter size, per ream, each ruling,	4 00
"Cap " " " "	5 00
"Demy " " " " "	7 00
"Medium " " " " "	9 00

"Double medium, (muster and pay rolls, ruled on both sides,) whole cost per ream,	12 00
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"For binding in full or in half binding, book of four quires—

"Imperial,	20 00
"Super-Royal,	15 00
"Royal, medium, and demy,	10 00
"Cap and letter,	5 00

"For each additional quire, one dollar. The binding stock or material will be furnished by this office; when not so furnished, you will be allowed cost and ten per cent. Ruling for blank books to be at the rate allowed for blanks—less than a ream to count as a ream; more than a ream and less than two reams, in proportion for the excess.

"For folding stitching, covering, and trimming pamphlets, per thousand copies—

"Three signatures,	\$40 00
"Four signatures,	45 00
"Five signatures,	50 00
"Eight signatures,	60 00
"Ten signatures,	75 00

"For simple folding, stitching, and trimming, without covers, per signature, per thousand copies,	10 00
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"For simple folding and trimming, (general orders, circulars, etc.,) not exceeding four pages, per 1,000 copies,	5 00
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"Paper will be furnished by this office as far as possible; when furnished by you, cost and ten per cent. will be allowed.

"The above tariff of prices has been made after a careful consideration of the several propositions sent to this bureau in answer to the circular letter of the 8th instant. I believe it to be fair and just to all parties. Heretofore the work of the War Department has been done under one contract, and it was found impossible to prevent delays. Under the proposed arrangement it will be divided, and it is easy to perceive that the Government and those who perform the service will be better satisfied.

"Should you accept the propositions herewith submitted, please notify me at your earliest convenience."

The result has been highly satisfactory, and, until a printing office can be established by the Government, of sufficient capacity to do all its work, it is the only arrangement that will meet the requirements of the service.

The bills for the printing of Congress and the several Executive Departments, examined, approved and passed for payment, since the first of January last, foot up two hundred and thirty-one thousand five hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty-nine cents, (231,553 59,) of which the following is a statement in detail :

War Department,	\$190,938 13
Treasury Department,	5,419 67
State Department,	186 00
Congress,	34,989 79
Total,	<u>\$231,553 59</u>

There are outstanding bills to a very considerable amount. The bills for the War Department only cover the work ordered previous to the first of May last; for Congress a complete settlement has been made to the close of the last session, with the exception of a portion of the reports of battles, not yet printed, the printers employed on that work having been called to the field for the defence of the capital.

I am enabled to present a full statement of expenditures for the year ending December 31st, 1863, as follows :

War Department,	\$173,997 50
Treasury Department,	85,237 49
Congress,	33,548 62
Post-Office Department,	5,438 97
Navy Department,	2,761 30
State Department,	333 93
Department of Justice,	184 87
	<u>\$301,502 68</u>

From the statements above given, it will be perceived that there has been a very large increase in the cost of printing since last year; but the cause will readily suggest itself to your mind when you recollect the increased price paid for labor, and the enhanced price of paper and every other species of material used in executing the work.

On the books of the Treasury Department the following sums remain to the credit of the printing fund:

For the printing of both Houses of Congress, including the printing of the laws and journals in book form,	\$26,041 46
For the printing of the several Executive Departments of the Government,	128,586 26
For the purchase of paper for the printing of the several Executive Departments and Congress,	2,483 45

It will be observed, therefore, that the appropriations already made for the printing of the present year will, in all probability, fall short of the amount needed, it being impossible to make an exact estimate for the want of accurate information as to the quantity of printing required by the several departments for a given period. There is also this additional reason, the fluctuations in the price of paper.

A contract was made with Messrs. Evans & Cogswell, of Columbia,

South Carolina, for the printing of the "Digest of the Laws," ordered at a recent session of Congress. The work has been delayed because of the difficulty in procuring paper of a proper quality, and the taking of the printers employed upon it for military service. These difficulties having been overcome, the work is progressing rapidly, and I expect to be able to deliver the book by the first of December at furthest.

I have the honor, sir, to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. W. NELSON,
Superintendent Public Printing.

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